Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1947 applies to every establishment wherein 100 and more workers are employed. However, appropriate Government may apply the provisions of the Act to any industrial establishment employing less than 100 persons. Since the State Govenment are the appropriate Government in respect of commercial establishments like shops and call centres, necessary instruction have been issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment during January, 2005 to all Labour Secretaries asking them to suitable action to apply the provisions of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 to small establishments like call centres and shops in the unorganised sector.

- The Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964 have been amended to include sexual harassment as a misconduct. The Central Civil Services (Control, Classification and Appeal) Rules, 1965 have been amended during July, 2004 to provide that the complaints Committee established in each Ministry or Department or office for inquiring into complaints of sexual harassment shall be deemed to be the inquiry authority appointed by the disciplinary authority and complaints committee shall hold the inquiry as far as practicable in accordance with the procedure laid down in these rules (*i.e.* the procedure for holding inquiry into disciplinary proceedings for award of a major penality).
- Amendments have been made to Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 so that the sexual harassment of women at workplace in the private sector could constitute an offence for which a workman is liable for disciplinary action.
- Necessary instruction have been issued by the Ministry of Labour and Employment during January, 2005 to all State Labour Secretaries asking them to take suitable action to apply the provisions of the Industrial Employment (Standing Orders) Act, 1946 to small establishments like call centres and shops in the unorganised sector.
- Media compaign has been undertaken by the Department of Women and Child Development to create awareness on various issues concerning women and children, including compliance with the Supreme Court's guidelines on the prevention of sexual harassment of women at workplace.

Malnutrition among children

1466. SHRIMATI N. P. DURGA: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in spite of Government initiative and various measures such as National Nutrition Policy, National Plan of Action for Nutrition, etc. one in every three malnourished children in the world, according to the UNICEF publication entitled, 'Mapping India's Children: UNICEF in action' lives in India; and

(b) if so, the reason for which the malnourishment in the Indian Children has not been reduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) Yes, Madam. UNICEF Publication under reference reports so. There has, however, been a significant reduction in the prevalence of under-nutrition among children, clinical symptoms of Vitamin A Deficiency, Iron Deficiency and Iodine Deficiency Disorders during the last three decades.

(b) Malnutrition is maltifaceted problem. The determinants of malnutrition vary from female illiteracy, poor purchasing power, food insecurity and inadequate access to basic social services like Health, Education, Welfare, etc. The prevention and control of malnutrition, therefore, requires a multisectoral and multi-dimensional approach. The Government of India is seized of the problem and has been implementing a number of direct and indirect interventions through its different sectors which aim at improving nutritional status of the population. Some of these include Integrated Child Development Service (ICDS) Scheme, Kishori Shakti Yojana (KSY), Nutrition Programme for Adolescent Girls (NPAG). Nutrition Advocacy and Awareness Generation Programmes of Food and Nutrition Board (FNB) of the Ministry of Women & Child Development, Mid Day Meal Programme for primary school children of the Department of Elementary Education and Literacy, Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), Antodaya Anna Yojna (AAY), Anapurna Scheme of the Department of Food and Public Distribution. Reproductive and Child Health Programme, National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme, National Rural Health Mission, Integrated Management of Neonatal and Childhood Illness of Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, various poverty alleviation and food for work programmes of Ministry of Rural Development, public health measures like vaccination, de-worming, supply of safe drinking water and sanitation also contribute to improving macro (Energy and Protein) and micronutrient (Vitamins and Minerals) status of the population in different ways.

Balika Samridhi Yojana in Kerala

1467. SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: